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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In The Matter Of)
)
Advanced Television Systems) MM Docket No. 87-268
and Their Impact Upon the)
Existing Television Broadcast)
Service)

To: The Commission

COMMENTS ON EX PARTE FILINGS ADDRESSING DIGITAL TV ALLOTMENTS

Rancho Palos Verdes Broadcasters, Inc. ("RPV"), the permittee of Station KRPA(TV), Rancho Palos Verdes, California, by its attorneys, hereby submits its Comments on the ex parte submissions presented by the Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc. ("MSTV") on November 20, 1997¹ and the Association of Local Television Stations, Inc. ("ALTV") on November 25, 1997. These Comments are filed in response to the FCC's Public Notice issued on December 2, 1997 inviting Comments on the ex parte submissions presented by MSTV and ALTV. In support thereof, RPV states as follows.

1. The MSTV has provided the Commission with a valuable service by having undertaken modifications to the DTV Table of Allotments in the spectrum-congested areas of the Northeast, Great Lakes region and the California coastal region. The impact

¹ MSTV's pleading was styled, "Ex Parte Submission Based on New Technical Discoveries to Help the Commission Improve the DTV Table of Allotments/Assignments Submitted by The Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc. and Other Broadcasters."

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of DTV allotments in these congested areas is significant and RPV joins with MSTV in a desire to optimize DTV allotments. RPV believes that MSTV has accomplished a fair and equitable result in its work.

2. The potential for interference has been brought home to RPV by a review of the MSTV pleading. According to the MSTV's research, Station KRPA(TV) can expect only a 78.3% replication of its signal.² A loss of more than 20% is of significance, especially to a new broadcast station that has to establish itself in a highly competitive market such as the Los Angeles, California one.

3. Recognizing the problems that exist in the California coastal markets, MSTV has worked out a responsible solution. According to the MSTV's proposal, the DTV Table of Allotments would be modified so that Station KRPA(TV) would be allotted to Channel 29 instead of Channel 51. The results of this change are significant. Whereas the FCC Table would result in a replication of service of about 78% to 79%, the change in channel for Station KRPA(TV) will produce a 99.2% replication. This result provides the continued level of service that the Station and the viewing public are entitled to.

² Unlike the DTV-to-DTV allotment issue, the FCC's own work on replication has been proven correct by the MSTV. In the Sixth Report and Order in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC 97-115, released April 21, 1997, the Commission predicted a 79.1% replication.

4. The MSTV efforts in seeking to deal with the spectrum-congested California coastal region are ones to be applauded. It has provided the Commission and broadcasters with a means to reduce congestion and provide stations and the public with the broadcast service they are entitled to. As a result, the Commission should take all actions necessary to minimize congestion in the California coastal region and, in particular, it must modify the DTV Table of Allotments so that Station KRPA(TV)'s DTV allotment is changed from Channel 51 to Channel 29.

5. As for the ALTV document, it addresses another serious matter that has arisen in connection with the DTV Table of Allotments. There is present an obvious and significant disparity in the power levels provided for existing UHF stations as opposed to VHF stations that are receiving UHF DTV allotments. This should not be ignored and existing UHF broadcasters are entitled to far greater comparability than they have received. ALTV is entirely correct in proposing a mechanism for increasing the signal strength of UHF broadcasters and the Commission should respond to this with rules establishing power levels that achieve such a result while not producing impermissible interference to

other stations, especially in urban areas.

Respectfully submitted,

**RANCHO PALOS VERDES
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